(c) and (d) Being a natural phenomenon, occurrence of fog cannot be avoided. However, for maintaining continuity of flight operations at various airports, CAT-II and CAT-III system have already been installed. These systems permit operation in low visibility upto 350 meters in the case of CAT-II system and upto 50 meters in the case of CAT-III system. Besides, the availability of CAT-II and CAT-III trained pilots has increased considerably in the country. The number of DGCA authorised pilots has increased from 809 in the year 2005 to 1660 in 2007 (till November).

Standby X-ray machines at metro airports

*170. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the logic in having standby X-ray machines at metro airports in the country despite shortage of space; and

(b) if it is not rationale, whether Government would stop such practice, which is national waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) X-ray machines are used for non-invasive screening of passengers' baggages by security staff at the airports. These X-ray machines, like other elector-mechanical equipment, are prone to unserviceable contingencies.

During such contingencies, preventive and/or breakdown maintenance, the relevant X-ray machine is not available for use. Repair of X-ray machine sometimes takes long hours. During this period, operation of flight at the airport gets affected. In order to overcome the problem, standby X-ray machines have been provided at major airports.

All the security related equipment have been installed as per the requirements and technical specifications prescribed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

(b) Does not arise.

Exposure of public sector banks to realty and capital market sectors

* 171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks, because of their increased exposure to realty and capital market sectors, would suffer in the event of repetition of boom-burst cycles;

(b) if so, whether any measures have been initiated to contionuously monitor the situation and plug the systemic problems that may crop up and advise the banks to reduce their exposure to the said sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The exposure of public sector banks (PSBs) to real estate and capital market sectors has increased during the period March, 2006 to March, 2007. However, the growth of such exposure, as a percentage of gross advances, is marginal.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monitors the exposure of banks to realty and capital market sectors on a continual basis, and issues, guidelines to the banks, as and when required. RBI has taken various measures to minimize the risks arising out of financing to real estate and capital market sectors which *inter alia,* include enhancing risk weights and provisioning requirements for bank's exposure to these sectors; advising the banks to put in place a contorl mechanism for managing risks involved in the housing sector; advising the banks to intiate preventive and corrective measures regarding real estate sector and explicitly prescribe internal ceilings for such exposures; prescribing minimum internal rating required for builders; prescribing requisite security cover to be kept; and rationalisation of prudential capital market exposure norms. RBI has also issued guidelines to the banks with regard to their advances against share. Further, all public sector banks have put in place a robust risk management system to effectively manage risks arising out of their credit and investment portfolios.

Eligibility of foreign pilots to fly in India

*172. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of commercial pilots in the

country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) how many foreign pilots are flying in Indian sky under various airlines;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the qualifications and medical norms for holding a commercial license under Indian norms are different from the norms of other countries; and

(e) whether incidents have come to notice that pilots disqualified in Indian norms became eligible according to norms of other countries and again started flying in Indian sky?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. With the expeonential growth in the Indian civil aviation industry, there is an increase in the number of scheduled/non-scheduled operators as also fleet expansion programme. This has manifested in shortage of pilots.

(b) and (c) At present, the total requirement of type rated pilots for scheduled, non-scheduled and private operators is 4754. Of these, 3950 are Indian type rated pilots and the shortfall is being met from foreign pilots. 804 foreign pilots are working with various airlines in the country.

(d) Qualification and medical norms for pilot licences in India are as per International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines. However, each ICAO contracting State is free to adopt guidelines suiting its specific needs.

(e) The foreign licences issued by ICAO contracting States are only validated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India and do not involve compliance of requirements for issue of Indian licences as laid down in Schedule II of Aircraft Rules, 1937. A case had come to notice wherein a pilot having Indian Airlines Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) was found to be medically unfit and his Indian licence was cancelled. That pilot subsequently obtained FAA licence after treatment which was validated by DGCA under Rule 45 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Constitution of Thirteenth Finance Commission

*I73. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hasdecided to constitute the Thirteenth Finance Commission shortly;

(b) if so, whether the personnel and the terms of reference have been decided upon; and